

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Kelly Gebhardt, on March 11, 2009 at 2:50 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Sen. Kelly Gebhardt, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss (R)  
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)  
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Sen. Jim Keane (D)  
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)

##### **Members Excused:**

Sen. Debby Barrett, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)  
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)  
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)  
Sen. David E. Wanzonried (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lindsey Hern, Committee Secretary  
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 78, 3/24/2009; HJ 4, 3/24/2009;  
HJ 7, 3/24/2009

Executive Action:

00:01:24 Sen. Curtiss took the Chair as Sen. Gebhardt left the committee. Sen. Peterson also left the committee.

**HEARING ON HB 78**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:00 Rep. Gordon Hendrick (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 78, Revise timber salvage harvest laws.

00:02:48 Sen. Barrett came to the committee.

00:06:53 Sen. Perry came to the committee.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:07:38 Tom Schultz, Trust Land Management, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

00:08:30 Sen. Wanzenried came to the committee.

00:08:37 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association (MLA),  
Speaking on behalf of Ellen Simpson, Montana Wood  
Producers Association (MWPA)

00:10:08 Chas Vincent, HD 2

00:10:36 Sen. Tropila came to the committee.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:19 Sen. Hansen

00:11:49 Mr. Schultz, DNRC

00:12:02 Sen. Tropila left the committee.

00:13:12 Sen. Barrett left the committee.

00:13:18 Sen. Hansen

00:13:29 Mr. Schultz, DNRC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:14:19 Rep. Hendrick

**EXHIBIT**(nas54a01)

**HEARING ON HJ 7**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:16:22 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HJ 7, Urge modification of federal wildfire policy.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:21:10 Mr. Todhunter, MLA; speaking on behalf of Ellen Simpson, MWPA

00:22:37 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:23:47 Casey Perkins, Montana Audubon

**Informational Testimony:**

00:27:23 Ted Mead, Chief, Fire and Aviation Management, DNRC

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:29:36 Sen. Hansen

00:30:15 Rep. Vincent

00:30:47 Sen. Hansen

00:30:56 Rep. Vincent

00:31:06 Chairwoman Curtiss

00:31:45 Mr. Mead, DNRC

00:33:16 Chairwoman Curtiss

00:33:33 Mr. Mead, DNRC

00:34:47 Chairwoman Curtiss

00:35:15 Mr. Mead, DNRC

00:37:08 Sen. Steinbeisser came to the committee.

00:37:23 Sen. Kaufmann

00:38:01 Mr. Mead, DNRC

00:39:16 Sen. Kaufmann

00:39:26 Sen. Wanzenried

00:39:55 Mr. Mead, DNRC

00:40:07 Sen. Wanzenried

00:40:08 Mr. Mead, DNRC

00:40:55 Sen. Wanzenried

00:41:26 Mr. Mead, DNRC

00:42:28 Sen. Wanzenried

00:42:34 Rep. Vincent

00:42:42 Sen. Wanzenried

00:43:07 Rep. Vincent

00:45:31 Sen. Wanzenried

00:45:40 Rep. Vincent

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:46:13 Rep. Vincent  
**EXHIBIT**(nas54a02)

00:50:53 Sen. Perry left the committee.

**HEARING ON HJ 4**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:52:01 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HJ  
4, Urge authority for gubernatorial wildfire fuel  
hazard crisis.

00:57:26 Sen. Gebhardt returned to the committee.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:58:12 Mr. Todhunter, MLA; Speaking on behalf of Ellen  
Simpson, MWPA

00:59:22 Sen. Gebhardt took the position of Chair.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:00:16 Ms. Perkins, Montana Audubon

01:02:58 Kyla Wiens, Montana Environmental Information Center  
(MEIC)

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:04:14 Sen. Curtiss  
01:04:43 Rep. Vincent  
01:04:55 Sen. Curtiss  
01:05:37 Rep. Vincent  
01:07:13 Sen. Kaufmann  
01:07:49 Rep. Vincent  
01:08:14 Sen. Kaufmann  
01:08:24 Rep. Vincent  
01:08:31 Sen. Steinbeisser  
01:08:58 Ms. Perkins, Montana Audubon  
01:10:17 Chairman Gebhardt  
01:10:51 Ms. Perkins, Montana Audubon  
01:10:54 Chairman Gebhardt  
01:10:57 Ms. Perkins, Montana Audubon

01:11:07 Chairman Gebhardt

01:11:23 Ms. Perkins, Montana Audubon

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:11:38 Rep. Vincent

01:16:06 Sen. Kaufmann, requested that Rep. Vincent stick to his bill.

01:16:27 Chairman Gebhardt permitted him to continue his closing.

01:16:32 Rep. Vincent

01:17:31 Chairman Gebhardt

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:10 P.M.

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Lindsey Hern, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([nas54aad.pdf](#))**